

CIGARETTE PAPERS.

By JOSEPH HATTON.

The Laureate and the Thrush.
In Alfred Austin's "Garden that I love," he boasts of the thrush's song in his "patriarchal oak" at Swindon Old Manor, but I can match his bird with a City warbler that never fails to sing within a few hundred yards of St. John's Wood-road, with its traffic of cab and carriage. In the early days of February he takes his wretched station where he can survey a hundred little garden plots, see the work-a-day world go on, and hear the bustle of the streets, and, perched on the bare branches of a sturdy beech, he sings of the coming spring. There is a special friendliness in his presence, trusting as he does in man's hospitality, and being content with such a great and such smoky trees as the great City affords. His song, to me, is a thousand times sweeter gift for the reason that as Spring's welcome harbinger he does not disdain his prosaic environment. Mr. Austin tells us that no other songbird sings so early in the day and so late in the year. Inspiration never fails him from opening February to mid-July; and all through October and November he has poetic delights through the two gloomings.

Scanning to wait for tateful May,

When every throat can sing,

Then houset Winter with thy lay,

And art thyself the Spring.

My starlings have not yet returned, but a pair of linnet have put in an appearance in my London garden. I have a serious quarrel with the sparrows. It is my gardener's fault, perhaps. He made the mistake of putting in "yellow crocuses instead of white and purple." The London sparrow finds the yellow crocus bloom a dainty morsel. He scatters every one of mine in yellow litter all over the place. Dead poor Bohemian friend (long since dead, alas!) Harry Lee, would have found plenty of illustration for his pretty idea about Leigh Hunt in the blown and mangled flowers that strew my grass, the more so that there is a primrose also ready to hand. He believed that if Hunt had started to pick a primrose and found it to be a guinea he would have been miserably disappointed. If the poet saw my patch of London lawns just now he might imagine that some African magician had been scattering gold from Rhodesia; but it is only the remnants of a meal the sparrows have been making on a grassy bed of crocuses.

With All its Faults.

The Laureate is a dainty and poetic touch where Nature appeals to him, and his sympathies are enraged, as they always are, in the contemplation of

Forest dingles dim and deep,

Where certained noonday lies asleep,

and such-like nooks and corners of old-world loveliness, the secrets of which he catches in many a happy and inspired rhyme. But London has many a grassy slope and spreading tree, the more beautiful that they help to trim and decorate rough edges of the brick town; and we have skies no less streaked with red and purple and hazed with sunny mists than the rural outposts of city trains and penny steamers. Recently London has looked her best in the bright promise of an unusually early and lovely spring. We have had an exceptional winter season, without snow, but it is feared with too much frost. In our fickle climate we may have too much of both. Meanwhile the sun shines, the brown-coated sparrows are building in city caves, the thrush in suburban copes, the shops are gay with "spring attractions," and the returning tide of fashion comes rippling along the shores of Vanity Fair; and this is London which, with all its faults and follies, is a very good place to live and to spend in, but to borrow or beg or get a man's own-well, that is another story.

The Muse of Tender Sentiment.

But we were talking about the Laureate's muse. Poor persecuted Laureate. They say he has fled to the South of France, fled from his Preface to "England's Darling" (which ignored all other writers on King Alfred except himself), and from his first attempt to bend the bow of Ulysses Tennyson. Any newly crowned poet might have expected to have the fiery darts of almost every other minstrel clattering against his armour; but Mr. Austin has come in for the slings and arrows of poets, critics, and journalistic gossips. The truth is the new Laureate is evidently over-conscientious. He should not have been in such a hurry to justify his advancement. If he had taken time to study more closely the methods of the patriotic rhymesters who know whether he might not after a while have written a real battle hymn, and composed a worthy dirge? It is too bad to go on worrying him. But I fear the only way to win success is for the Laureate to go back to the garden that he loves, and trim his flowers and sing a sweet and tender lay to Veronika. His muse has no sympathy with blustering troopers dashing on the foe. She has no voice for the battle and the breeze, and—alas for Mr. Austin's office!—no trumpets of patriotism in her repertoire; she is the mere tender sentiment, a goddess of love, her inspiration in the breath of summer winds, the song of birds, the music of the brook. One must forgive the poet his honest but futile effort to earn his County guerdon in remembrance of the many beautiful gifts of song he had already given to the world from the pure love of singing.

Manning's First Visit to Rome.

Cardinal Manning does not appear to have had an eye for the beauties of Nature nor any appreciation of the wonderful works of man. Speaking of his "Roman Diary," which is largely quoted in Purcell's "Life of Manning," "with the quiet smile which was characteristic of him when criticising himself," the Cardinal said, "It will be as hard to get into the out of as to get something out of a cucumber." And this was so. Neither the Appian Way, the Triumphal Arch of Titus, nor the Colosseum appear to have moved him to any conscious sensation over the glories and triumphs of Pagan Rome. Neither did the Diary allude "to the glories of Nature, or of the manifold wonders of man's handiwork." Mr. Purcell finds an explanation of this strange apathy to all that in Rome most delights the heart in the declaration which Cardinal Manning had more than once made to him: "From the beginning I was a priest, and a priest only." More unaccountable is the utter absence of any record in his Diary of its writer's private audience with Pope Pius IX. There was a personal reason for this, it seems. The Pope knew all about Mrs. Fry and the Quakers, but nothing

about Cardinal Manning's Anglican creed. His Holiness was astonished on hearing that the chalice is used in the Anglican Church in the administration of the communion. "Such an amazed expression of surprise, such ignorance of Anglican ritual and belief, may well have fallen like a douche of cold water on the susceptible temper of a high Anglican dignitary. Little wonder, then, that if such really were the case, that Pius IX.'s name is omitted from the Diary, and the Archbishop's audience with the Pope referred to a form so bald as almost to be obscure."

An Unrehearsed Situation.

Here is a little incident not related in the "Reminiscences of Mrs. Keeley." Tyrone Power, as you know, was a good deal of a "swell," fond of horses at Sohern was, rode as well as the latter, and was in just as good society. Robert Keeley, modest and unpretentious, was nevertheless proud, and a stickler for the status of the actor. One day Power on a fine show steed pulled up seeing Keeley walking westward. "How do you do, Keeley?" said Power with a flourish. "A word with you, dear friend." Keeley stepped up to the curbstone, Power slid from his saddle. "One moment, Keeley, just take hold of her head for a second." Power was making a call. He had been seen from the drawing-room window of the Grosvenor-square mansion. The door was opened, and in he walked. "I won't be a moment," he said, and left Keeley with the horse, whereupon Keeley became very nervous at his unexpected and somewhat humiliating responsibility. The horse became a little restive, and Keeley in trepidation looked up anxiously at the house to see the principal window filled with amused faces, and Power pointing to him and roaring with laughter. Poor Keeley, however, was quickly relieved from his embarrassment, and his place being taken by a servant was induced to make the acquaintance of his fashionable audience and receive the apologies of his friend.

How to be Successful.

The stage owes a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Edward Russell. He has contributed more to the current literature of comment and criticism in connection with theatricals than any other English journalist. From the early days of his novitiate in London to the present time of his past-mastership in the profession which he adorns he has always viewed the stage from a high standpoint, always taken it seriously, always encouraged the art of the actor, and paid unstinting tribute to his best craftsmen. I have recently been reading a reprint of his lecture to the full month's salary.

CONSTANT READER (R. E. C.).—She is entitled to the full month's salary.**G. A.—**—It is now compulsory, except in the case of cyclists, 2 Officers in the Army and Navy are alone entitled.**J. MARSDEN.**—It would be a risky venture.**POOL.**—The responsibility rests with the late owner to get rid of the tenant.**LEAD.**—Please send me a letter on undischARGEABLE paper with ink; pencil writing often becomes effaced.**T. DURT.**—Legal.**J. WILLES.**—In the warranty was good, you have a strong case.**POWER STRUCK.**—Yes, at any time.**THEIR FATHERS.**—They take their nationalities from their fathers.**T. H. BURG.**—All ordinary creditors should be treated alike.**T. W. WARD.**—Not if the conveyance was used only for trade.**COURTNEY, C. R.**—Not liable.**UNSETTLED.**—See on the I.O.U.**C. L.**—See in the county court of his locality.**HEALSTROM.**—The registry at Somerset House might give you some help.**M. C. F.**—There is nothing to prevent their marriage.**W. E. G.**—The order of the court should be strictly complied with.**OUR WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.**—A penny stamp suffices for any receipt.**T. B. A.**—Call upon the landlord to remedy the defects.**FEAR.**—Yes.**J. P. F.**—We cannot understand the case at all.**A. E. NICHOLL.**—You had better inquire at Scotland Yard.**12 MONTH.**—The order can be obtained within 12 months from date of last payment.**PRE-PAID.**—Proceedings must be first taken in the county court.**HEALSTROM.**—You will have to pay the higher rent.**NEMO.**—Yes.**CORDWAINER.**—It is all right.**SW.**—If you can prove the over payment you are entitled to recover.**S. ROGERS.**—In both cases you are responsible for safe-guarding your property so far as lies in your power.**BLAKE.**—Inquire at Inland Revenue Office.**WILLIAM.**—Obtain legal advice on the will.**LANDLORD.**—See for arrears.**A. BERNARDI.**—Not illegal.**H.**—Quite impossible to form any opinion without hearing the other side.**GILROY.**—His claim is against the deceased's estate.**BLACKING.**—You must either do or provide separate maintenance.**PRISONER OF ZENDA.**—No.**S. T. BULLOT.**—No.**R. D. M.**—Recovered.**G. Y. X.**—If taken at so much per week, that amount of notice is sufficient.**KATZEN.**—None if not attended to, take proceedings for injunction.**C. W. TIDY.**—No.**EXETER.**—Only by ejectment.**R. E. PRITCHARD.**—Depend on the law of the master.**C. G.**—You must provide maintenance or take her back. The custody of the children is vested in yourself.**A. B. C.**—Impossible to say without inspecting the premises and overhauling the title-deeds.**—**—County Court him.**H. HUMBERT.**—The drafting of agreements does not come within the purpose of this column.**G. W. HAZELL.**—He is only under contract to pay the services rendered.**INTEREST.**—Interest is recoverable.**INSTITUTE.**—Interest until the infant is produced.**REUBER.**—Inquire at Island Estates Department.**J. R.**—Yes; the landlord will be a preferred creditor for arrears up to the amount due to him and the other preferred claimants.**A. W. QUADRI.**—The guinea cannot claim the money.**M. A.**—A witness has a right so to swear by virtue of Sec. 3 of the Oaths Act, 1888, 51 and 52 Vict., c. 10.**J. S.**—It cannot be done.**POKEY.**—On the Saturday.**MEDICAL.****T. SUTTON.**—You must consult a skillful dentist.**G. W. HARRIS.**—Eat your food slowly, masticate it well, and drink a little water.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**CARDINAL BISMARCK.**—"and she will be careful not to give you a pretext for it."**BLEAK.**—I have a whole bagful of pretexts," replied the future Chancellor.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.**Prussia's reprobate.**—Austria does not wish for war.**W.**—The time comes war will break out, without even surprising any one.**A.**—And the moment Prussia was ready.

DENOUNCED!

A ROMANCE.

BY

JOHN BLOUNDELL-BURTON

AUTHOR OF

"THE ADVENTURES OF COUNT ARMAND,"
"THE DESERT SHIP," "THE HISPANIOLA
PLATE," "HIS OWN ENEMY," "THE SILENT
SHORE," "A GENTLEMAN-ADVENTURER," ETC.

"The older lies is the certain road."

JACOBETTE BALLAD.

CHAPTER VII.

"THE BIRD THAT DANCED THE
RIGADOON."

The rejoicings into which London broke out when, at last, the Scottish rebellion was decisively crushed caused the Highland and Vauxhall Gardens to be, perhaps, more frequented in the warm spring and summer of 1746 than they had ever been previously. Indeed, after the fright which had fallen upon the capital when the news came that the Highland troops were at Derby and within four days' march of London, it was not very astonishing that the inhabitants should, on the removal of that terror, give themselves up to wholesale amusement. Six months before imminent ruin stared them in the face; the Bank of England, by that time regarded as being almost as stable an institution as it is now considered, had only escaped closing its doors by the oft-quoted artifice of paying the demands made on it in six-pences. Regiments engaged in foreign campaigns—Ligonier's Horse and Hawley's and Rich's Dragoons—had been hurried home from Williamstadt; Admiral Vernon and Commodore Boscawen and Smith were each at sea with a squadron looking for ships' cargoes—and the being partaken of, he invited her ladyship to honour him by his company his partner in a quadrille de contre danse, a new style of dancing introduced into the French ballets a year or so before, and but just come over to London. This the right-hand lady accepted at once, having already perfected herself in the new diversion under Duhamel's tuition; but, on her other cavalier desiring also the honour of Lady Fordingbridge's hand, Kitty refused, on the ground that she knew not the dance, and neither was she very well.

"I fath," said Lady Belrose, as she shook her hand over her great balloon-shaped hoop and fastened her mask more tightly under her hood, "you have you lost but little to-night. The quadrille is well enough in our own houses or on our country lawns; here, I protest, the noise, the dust and the stench of the oil lamps, to say nothing of the unknown and doubtful, unclean creatures with whom, do not recommend it over much. However, lead me to it, Sir Charles, since you will have it so," and in another moment she, with her partner and the others who formed the sets, were bowing and curtseying to each other.

Meanwhile Mr. Wynn, Lady Belrose's second string, having begged that he might be allowed to find a partner and himself join in a set, since Lady Fordingbridge was so obdurate that he, too, had been learning the new dance from Monsieur Duhamel, took himself off, so that Kitty and her father were left alone together. And now it was that she, after scanning each male figure that was "more than common tall," began to tremble a little in her limbs and to feel as though she were about to faint. For in that portion of the crowd which was not dancing and which still followed its leaders round and round the orchestra pavilion, thereby illustrating the words of Bloomfield, a poet of the period, who wrote:

"First we traced the gay circle all round,
Ay—and then we went round it again,
she saw two forms that, she doubted not, were those for whom she looked—partly in eagerness, partly with nervousness.

These maskers did not walk side by side, but one behind the other, and, possibly, to ordinary onlookers would not have appeared to have any connection with each other. Yet Kitty knew very well that, inseparable in almost all else, they were now equally so. The first, who was the tallest, was clad in a costume, perhaps unique that night in the Spring Gardens, perhaps almost unique among the masses that have ever been assumed since first masquerades were invented. It was that of the headman. Arrayed in the garb of that dismal functionary, a rusty black velvet suit, with the breeches and black woollen stockings to match, the masker might have failed to inform those who saw him of the character he was about to pourtray, had it not been for at least one other accessory. On his back, strapped across it, he carried the long, narrow-bladed axe used for decapitation, its handle fringed and tasseled with leather thongs. Yet there were other tokens also of the part he represented. In a girdle round his waist he bore a formidable knife having a blade a foot long and an inch and a half deep—the knife with which the doomsman finished his task if the axe failed to do its duty.

"Again the soft blue eyes were turned to him, imploringly it seemed; begging by their glint that he should spare her. And ceasing to speak of his remembrance of the past, he continued: "Circumstances, strange though they were, prevented any one of us from receiving your letters—or from answering them in time. I was living in the train of Charles Edward, Cardinal Aquaviva, having provided their passports. Douglas was with De Roquemalle, and received your letter only on his return to Paris, where it had been sent back to him. Kate, in that stirring time, when the prince was passing from Rome to Picardy, was it strange no answer should come?"

"No, no," she replied. "No, and as she spoke she clasped both of her hands in her lap, and bent her head to hide her tears. Then she muttered, yet so not low but that he could hear her. "Had I but waited! But trusted!"

"It would have been best," he said very gently. And as he spoke, as though in mockery of their sad hearts, many of the maskers went by laughing and jesting and the quadrille being finished the band was playing the merry old tune of "The bird that danced the Rigadoon."

"You hear the air?" she said, looking up suddenly again. "You hear? Oh! my heart will break." "Yes," he answered. "I hear."

CHAPTER VIII.

"FORTUNE! AN UNEXPECTED FORTUNE."

too modest in those days—musketeers, knights and satyrs, harlequins, and men in wizard's garments danced and drank, laughed and shouted with milkmaids, nuns, and Joans of Arc. And, to testify, perhaps, the fact that they had not forgotten the dangers through which the country had recently passed, and also, perhaps, to hurl one last taunt at their crushed and broken foes, many of the maskers had arrayed themselves in the garbs of their late enemies—for some struttred round and round the orchestra pavilion and banqueting room dressed as Highlanders or French officers, others as miserable Scotch peasants having in their hands fairs and reaping hooks. Others, again, had even attempted to pourtray the character of the unhappy Charles Edward, now in hiding in the Scotch wilds, and, as they danced and sang or drank their glasses of ale and ate their two-penny slices of hung-beef, endeavoured even by their conversation to ape what they imagined to be the Scotch dialect. At the same time, outside all that seething, painted, and bedizened crowd, were many others of the better class, such as those who formed Lady Belrose's party, or visitors of a similar degree, who contented themselves by concealing their identity with masks, wigs, and dominoes, or with hoods and laces.

In a somewhat retired spot beneath where stood a noble statue of Handel, now nearing his last days, executed by Roubiliac, and at the back of which was a small wood green and boquet in which were many arbours, Lady Belrose and her friends sat down to watch the kaleidoscopic crowd. Here, Sir Charles Ames, summoning a waiter, bade him bring refreshments for the party—viz., some iced fruits and a glass of champagne—and then being partaken of, he invited her ladyship to honour him by his company his partner in a quadrille de contre danse, a new style of dancing introduced into the French ballets a year or so before, and but just come over to London. This the right-hand lady accepted at once, having already perfected herself in the new diversion under Duhamel's tuition; but, on her other cavalier desiring also the honour of Lady Fordingbridge's hand, Kitty refused, on the ground that she knew not the dance, and neither was she very well.

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Upon which, and not waiting for his countrymen's thanks, he took himself off quickly.

"Which way now, Bertie?" asked Douglas. "Wandsworth is done with. Where to?"

"To Kensington. I, at least, must watch the square to see if Kate gets safe back to her home."

"Then we go together. Only what make shift to get rid of them." To be continued.

But the crowd still augmented in their neighbourhood, and while the soldiers—all of whom had of late fought in Flanders as well as Scotland, and were as fierce as their chief, Cumberland—were pressing the others hard, some of the livelier maskers began to feel disposed to assist one side or another. Therefore, 'twas almost a riot that now prevailed in the Spring Gardens, and there were numerous other Jacobites, who, although they had probably not been out with Charles Stuart, were very keen in their sympathies with his cause, they took the opportunity of joining the frays on their own account and of breaking the heads of several Hanoverian supporters. And

Meanwhile Sir Charles Ames had placed himself by Bertie and Douglas, and had already exchanged several passes with the others, when, stepping back a moment into the arbour, he saw to his intense astonishment the figure of Kitty, being in a swoon, and consequently unconscious.

"Lady Fordingbridge," he murmured, "Lady Fordingbridge. So, so! A little assignation with our rebel friends. Hump! I'd scarce have thought it of her. However, 'tis no affair of mine, and as she's Molly Belrose's friend, why, I must be the same to her friends." Whereon he again took his place alongside the two Jacobites and assisted at keeping the others at bay.

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OUR OMNIBUS.

PIPER PAN.

Among the candidates for the post of Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, left vacant by the death of Sir Joseph Barnby, there are so many musicians of equal eminence and capability that I think the electors will find some difficulty in deciding upon which to fix their vote. The fact that the music committee of the corporation have, amongst other conditions, imposed a limit as to age will no doubt be of assistance, as some of the gentlemen desirous of becoming principal of the school are of an age which will probably be found to be above that required by the committee.

Mr. Henry Gadsby, who competed in the last election when Sir Joseph Barnby gained the day, is again to the fore. Mr. William Henry Thomas, who is a professor of many years standing at both the Guildhall School and the Royal Academy, besides being conductor of several good choral societies, and the popular Musical Union, is one of the candidates who appear particularly suitable for the post. Dr. Charles Maclean, another competitor, also has special claims owing to his extensive experience as organist of Exeter College, precentor at Eton College, and composer and teacher in London, where his high standing as a technical musician is well known.

While musicians here are speculating and agitating as to the future head of the City school of music, musicians in Paris are in the same position concerning the successor of the late Ambroise Thomas as director of the Conservatoire. The appointment will probably be conferred upon M. Massenet, composer of "Le Roi de Lahore," "Werther," "Manon," the famous "La Navarraise," and many other works. From a pecuniary point of view the post is not specially gratifying, the salary being between £300 and £400 a year; but as a mark of distinction it is the highest to which a French musician can succeed, and is therefore much prized.

The Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, has been let by the Carl Rosa Company on lease to Mr. Robert Arthur, but the directors make a reservation that they may give a season of opera after the annual pantomime has been withdrawn. The arrangement appears sensible, as the rent is now secured for the periods when the company does not require the theatre, and yet they can still look upon it as their "headquarters."

Mr. George Fox's pretty opera, "Nydia," will be given at the Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Bridge-road, on Thursday evening, March 5. The work was originally performed at the Savoy Theatre on March 7. Considering the undiminished popularity of "The Mikado" revival it would seem wiser to postpone the new production.

Mr. Vert has arranged for Herr Moritz Rosenthal to give seven recitals of historical pianoforte music during May and June. The programmes of this interesting series of performances will comprise works from Bach, down to composers of modern times.

I hear that Mrs. Langtry will receive £100 for reciting at the St. James's Hall Ballad Concert next Wednesday. I am also told that a similar amount was received from Miss Chappell by Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft when they recited.

The German Emperor has conferred the title of "Royal Professor" upon Mr. Alfred Blume, who recently resigned his appointment at the Royal College of Music. Professor Blume will in future reside at Wiesbaden, but will keep up his connection with this country by returning annually for the regular London season. Several of his pupils go with him to Wiesbaden, which now possesses, perhaps, the most beautiful opera house in the world.

At the concert which Mr. Ernest Cournet has arranged to take place at the Queen's Hall on March 25 for the benefit of the Armenian Relief Fund, the following artists will appear:—Madame Thudicum, Gomez, De Sales, Alexa, Belle Cole, and Agnes Wilson; Messrs. Mackay, Watkin Mills, Foote, and Walen. Also Miss Marie Eldon as réciter, and Mille. Sethe as violinist.

A performance of the late Goring Thomas's "Esmeralda" will be given in May by the students of the Guildhall School of Music. Rehearsals are already in active progress, and the work will be in readiness for final touches by the time the new principal, who will of course conduct, is appointed.

On Tuesday the first concert of the Bach Chorus will take place at Queen's Hall. Much interest attaches to the new Bruckner's new requiem for male voices, chorus, orchestra, and organ, which will be presented for the first time. Beethoven's "Mount of Olives," Brahms's "Tragic Overture" are also included in the programme, the vocalists being Madame Amy Shetwin, Miss Marian Mackenzie, Mr. Robert Hilton, and Mr. Edward Lloyd.

The inaugural performances of the London Amateur Operatic Society will be given at St. George's Hall on the evenings of April 28, 29, and 30. The late Alfred Cellier's charming opera, "Dorothy," is the work selected, and rehearsals take place every Monday evening. Amateurs desirous of taking part in the representations must apply before Feb. 29 to the hon. sec., 101, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde Park.

M. Lamoureux, the eminent Parisian conductor, is to revisit London in April. Mr. Robert Newman having arranged for him to give three orchestral concerts at Queen's Hall, M. Colonne, his great rival in Paris, is also coming here—for the first time.

Those clever young artists, the sisters Eisler, are repeating former successes on the Riviera. They have been most warmly received and applauded at the Casino Concerts, where they have been playing.

I hear that Mr. Orlando Harley, the popular tenor, has entirely given up the musical profession, and intends devoting himself to trade. He has joined his father and brother in partnership at their factory in Cleveland.

Madame Janotta, who was originally one of Madame Antoinette Sterling's concert party in America, is now touring in the States on her own account. The accomplished pianist, who has everywhere met with gratifying success, was on one occasion a guest at the White House, and later received two more invitations from Mrs. Cleveland.

Mr. Leo Stern has been engaged for the Philharmonic Concert of March 19, when he will play for the first time a new violincello concerto by Dvorak, conducted by the composer.

Mr. Frangcon Davies shortly leaves for America, where he is to sing "Elijah" at

March 31. Bach's "Matthew Passion," on April 3; at concerts by the Philharmonic, and Oratorio Societies in New York, at the Cincinnati Festival, and various other musical entertainments.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Messrs. Warne and Co. have just issued Part 23 of their "Royal Natural History." It concludes the reptiles, with accounts of the newts, salamanders, and worm-like amphibians, and commences the fishes. There are many species of newts, one of which—the common one—is perhaps familiar to many of my readers. This little creature may be found in almost every pond or ditch; it is, however, seldom seen, for being nocturnal in habits, it hides itself in the mud at the bottom of the water during the day. There is a stupid notion in some localities that the newt, or eft, as it is sometimes called, is poisonous; consequently it is looked upon as a most undesirable tenant of the ponds. Yet they are of very great interest, as will be found by a perusal of the present number, and as there are, I believe, something like 12,000 species, and each one with different, and some with most peculiar habits, the person who went in for seriously studying them would, I am sure, find most pleasant occupation, and could also make many discoveries that would delight his fellow-beings. Such points also as to how the sword-fish manages to remove from his weapon the fish he has stabbed, and many similar uncertainties, could be cleared up. The coloured plates in this number depict a salmon in the act of leaping up a water fall, and a chimaera, a fish with a long ribbon-like tail.

The account of the strange behaviour of a dog taking up his quarters under one of the platforms at Euston Station, furnished to me by a correspondent and published in our last issue, recalls to my mind a somewhat similar incident. Some years ago, when at school, I managed to get hold of a young jackdaw, and kept him for a week or so in a cage until I thought him tame enough to let loose. The day after giving him his freedom he disappeared, and I concluded that he had flown away. But this was not so, for while in the school-room at lessons we heard his voice, and there was no mistaking that the sound came from under the floor. He had crept through an iron ventilator outside which had become broken. All attempts to catch him were of no avail, and the only course we could adopt was to leave him there and throw his food to him through the grating. He was in this strange abode for over 2 months before he came out and allowed himself to be captured.

A correspondent at Kersley-street, Battersea Park, has sent me a long letter descriptive of the mobbing of a nest by a flock of sparrows. He says that the rat was in the grounds of St. Stephen's Church, Battersea, and the sparrows, some 15 in number, were hevered about 3 feet above him, and some of the ever now and again swooped down upon the rat and gave him a peck. This he rat that he appeared quite dazed, and so persistent were their attacks that each attempt to escape was frustrated. Eventually a terrier dog was brought on the scene and quickly despatched the rat, whose dead body lying on the battle-field was closely inspected by the sparrows, which, when convinced that their adversary was really dead, flew away with very *au-satisfi* chirps.

If eggs are the prime object of keeping fowls it is advisable that fresh stock should be introduced into the run every year, and the birds that have laid for 3 seasons should be thinned out. It will be found that those which have laid for this period will not produce so many eggs as younger hens, and that the supply will gradually get less as the fowls advance in age. A ready market can be found for the hens that are thus thinned out, and rather than keep them to produce eggs it will be much cheaper to dispose of them or eat them.

I have a letter from a correspondent at Woolwich who "entirely disagrees" with the method of feeding that was advocated by me in a recent issue. He says that slaked middlings "is no food at all for fowls," and soaked grain "causes too much fermentation in the crop," and other irregularities. Slaked middlings, by itself, I will agree with my correspondent, is poor food for a chicken, but I did not advocate its use without other food-stuffs mixed with it. As to the soaked grain, I may point out that dried grain very much swells in the crop, and a heavy meal of this alone often causes the disorder of "crop-bound" amongst fowls, and not only that, dried grain is, after all, only an artificial food, for in a state of nature the grain or seeds that birds pick, either from the plants that produce them, or the fallen ones from the ground, are always more or less moist, and not dry and hard like the corn that is given to domesticated birds.

The additions to the Zoological Society's menagerie during the week ending Feb. 18 include a black lark, a pheasant antelope (born in the gardens), a common squirrel, a black tanager, a woodlark, and a whinchat.

THE ACTOR.

Now that the Lyceum pantomime has come to its natural end, I venture to mention what seems to me to have been an initial mistake in connection with it, and that is, the comparatively insignificant stature of the hero, Robinson Crusoe. Of course, I know it was intended that little Miss Kitty Loftus should play Polly, and that, of course, would have made Robinson's shortness and slightness in comparison less marked. But I do not say, as a pantomime lover, that I like my heroes to be stalwart. Have a female "principal boy" if you please, but let her be of as many proportions as possible.

But why must "principal boys" be girls? It is not the thing an absurdity? There are plenty of young actors about who would be only too glad to go in for "lead" in pantomime if they had the chance. Of course, a "principal boy" must be able to sing and dance, but those accomplishments are not wholly unknown amongst our youthful actors. I confess I do not like your female "principal boy." Even at her sprightliest she has nothing of the really boisterous about her. Her femininity is obvious, and her assumption of masculine airs and graces is all make-believe. Pantomime would be much more interesting if she were entirely abolished.

Mr. Clyde Fitch, who is part author of the new piece at the Comedy, made his debut in England as a dramatist five years ago, when his "Pamela's Prodigy" was put on at the Court. You may remember that the work did not altogether set the Thames on fire. A play of his called "Marriage, 1892" was afterwards taken up by the Kendals, and played in certain places in this country. Since then it has apparently dropped out of their repertory. Mr. Fitch seems to have ideas, but to lack the power of handling them firmly and effectively. I admire, how-

ever, the pluck with which he returns again and again to the charge.

I am glad that in "The Romance of the Shop Walker" Mr. Weedon Grossmith is to have an opportunity of getting away from the class of part with which he has latterly been associated. Of course, he was delightful and admirable in "The New Boy," but that was and is no reason why he should be condemned to a succession of such roles, in which he was contrasted with a lady considerably bigger than himself. Mr. Grossmith is an artist, as he showed especially at the Court, and I should like to see him again in such characters as the servant in "A Commission," and the waiter in "Truthful James," and the young lord in "The Amazon."

If it is true that the present management of the Lyceum were desirous that Mr. Swinburne should prepare for them the English version of "Pour la Couronne," they deserve credit for a very legitimate ambition. I do not quite see how a great poet like Mr. Swinburne could condescend to "English" the work of poet even so distinguished as M. Coppée. Still, that the idea should have occurred to the Lyceum managers show how high an ideal they always set before them. Meanwhile they have secured the services of one who is certainly the freshest and most vigorous of all the younger English bards of to-day.

Let us hope that the performance at the Haymarket on March 9 for the benefit of Mr. Hermann Vasin will attract a crowded audience. Mr. Vasin well deserves the compliment about to be paid to him by his brother and sister artists. His acting has always been on a high plane; he has held aloft the banner of the classics, and has been faithful, in particular, to Shakspeare. His greatest successes are beyond the memory of the younger players; still, even they must have read of them, and feel a genuine interest in him who obtained them.

The production of "True Blue" at the Olympic is fixed, so far, for March 12. This is the sixth week of rehearsal, and there are to be at least two weeks more! Great pains are being taken with the staging; and I trust that when the play is at last submitted to the public this fact will be remembered, and credit given for hard work and earnestness of endeavour.

OLD IZAKA.

The Thames continues very bright, and with the exception of jack, the fish are not feeding so well as of late. Some good takes are reported from the upper reaches. Mr. Rowles, fishing last week from a boat in the Reading portion of the Kennett, secured a jack weighing 16lb., and on the following day five more scaling 24lb. together; and Mr. J. Bixey, of Brompton, fishing from the river by Marlow Lock, took a beautiful club of 3lb., and a dozen perch averaging nearly 1lb. each.

Good sport continues to be had in the tidal water, and at Twickenham a roach of 1lb. 12oz. formed part of a take of 16lb. A fine jack of 12lb. has been taken by Mr. Curtis in the Broom Hall cutting; and a 20lb. basket of roach fell to the rod of Mr. Paine at Richmond. Charles Hone at Staines, piloting Messrs. Pugh, King, Sharp, West, and Templeton on separate days, secured takes of roach, club, and jack; and Johnson and Knight, at Kingston, each made fair reports. Mr. Kempson (fishing with J. Knight) had a splendid take of roach, dace, and club, one club weighing 2lb. 9oz., and five of the roach scaling 1lb. each.

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The Lea does not improve to any extent, and it seems as if the dear old river in its more accessible portions is to a great extent fished out. I am pleased to hear that the Anglers' Association are shortly to have the privilege of netting one of the East London Waterworks reservoirs at Walthamstow, from which a large quantity of fish is expected to be taken, and these will, of course, go to replenish the Lea. It is only by judicious re-stocking and strict preservation that the river is likely to regain anything like its old renown among the anglers of London.

The Arun has been yielding some good fish, and anglers visiting Purbrough and Amberley have in many instances done well. Mr. Ramsay, of the West London Society, took five grand roach from the Central Association's Amberley water early in the week, the smallest scaling just over 1lb., and the largest 1lb. 12oz.; the five fish weighing 1lb. together.

The United Brothers (Deptford) had a capital show of fish at their last meeting, and among the display was a club of 3lb. 4oz., taken from the Thames by Mr. W. Marsh.

The Pictorial Society had an interesting meeting at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday last, over which Mr. C. H. Wheely presided. Among the fish shown was a splendidly marked 19lb. jack, caught by Mr. Wheely on the Hampshire Stour, and a nice trouting of six chub from the upper Thames, weighing 13lb. 11oz., taken by Mr. Cormac O'Dowd. Mr. F. Wilkinson gave an interesting reading descriptive of his experiences as an amateur fish munter, and displayed a very beautiful case of fish of various kinds (chiefly from the Thames) caught and afterwards set up by himself. Mr. R. E. Booker read his paper entitled "How to tie a salmon fly" before the society on Monday at 8 p.m.

The consignment of young trout, kindly presented to the Thames Angling Preservation Society by Mr. E. Valentine Corrie and his brother, will be brought in eight fish carriers from Winchester to Surbiton on Wednesday next, and deposited in suitable parts of the river between Kingston and Staines. The Thames Conservators have kindly placed the steam launch Alexandra and another boat at the service of the T.A.P.S. Committee, and the most careful arrangements have been made for placing the fish in their new homes, where it is hoped they will thrive and multiply. The Sunbury Reservoir is to be netted next month.

The Rivers Re-stocking and Preservation Fund has not fallen off, the total amount collected having enabled the committee to divide rather more than was done last year. As a result the Thames and Lea Preservation Societies have both received £12 7s., and the four up-river associations (Windsor, Maidenhead, Reading, and Henley) £3 5s. each. Little as this is for so great a work, it must not be forgotten that it is supplementary to other sums raised by each association for itself, and does not represent all that is contributed by London anglers to preservation work. A fund like this undoubtedly deserves universal support, and would certainly obtain it, if every angler would take care that the name of his club appeared on the subscribers' list. A balance sheet will shortly be issued.

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I regret to hear that John Poulter, of Chertsey, one of the oldest and most genial of Thames fisherman, died very suddenly in

the arms of Lotan Hackett on Saturday last. He was an assistant river-keeper attached to the T.A.P.S., and appeared in good health at the recent keepers' dinner. A subscription is afoot for his widow, who is left in very straitened circumstances.

Jack, perch, and roach have been taken in the Welsh Harp water at Hendon during the week. The jack have scaled from 4lb. to 6lb., one of the latter weight having been taken by Mr. Anthony, and Mr. White has had three scaling 15lb. altogether.

The trays of the Great Northern Brothers were well filled last week. Mr. J. Blatchley showing five nice jack (largest 7lb. 9oz.), weighing 26lb. 5oz. in all. Mr. J. Hewitt, 4oz. of roach, which, with bream and roach from Ambergate (weighed in by Messrs. C. Watling and J. A. Fitch) made a capital display. All these fish were taken from the bank. To-day (Sunday) the merry men of the Robin Hood repair to Bourne End where a number of prizes are to be competed for.

Mr. W. H. Beckett, vice-president, presided over the Anglers' Association meeting at the Foresters' Hall on Monday last. Mr. R. Gurney, secretary, who is one of the oldest of Lea anglers, stated that the river was being efficiently re-stocked and protected, an assurance that will be welcomed by anglers of all classes. The visiting officers' reports showed that they had collected over £200 for the Anglers' Benevolent Society during the past month.

GENERAL CHATTER.

On the whole, the fellow who drinks hard and smivels when he comes to grief seems to me a more objectionable person than the unrepentant toper who takes his punishment like a man. The other day, down in North Wales, a balloon on being brought to market, pleaded for mercy on the pretence that he owed his fall to indulgence in strong tipple. If the court would only let him down easily he would, no doubt, forthwith join the Church of England Temperance Society, and never touch stimulants again. I am glad to say that the court sentenced the defendant to a month with "hard," that will allow him time to confirm his virtuous resolve before he is again subjected to temptation.

There are a good many smart people who live on their living relatives, but it was deserved for a clever Yorkshireman to show the world how to fare sumptuously on a dead aunt. Not that the aunt was a poor lady; he invented her, endowed her with substantial property, made himself her heir, represented her to fast thinking into the silent tomb, and borrowed money freely on verbal mortgage of his coming inheritance. Finally, he reported her demise, and then, of course, his creditors had to furnish funds for mourning and travelling expenses. From first to last, over £200 was obtained in this way before discovery was made that the aunt was a purely fictitious person.

In spite of the lamented death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, West-end shopkeepers are exceptionally brilliant. The improvement in trade and the re-animation of the sorely-stricken Stock Exchange together put money into many pockets which had previously become empty. I know of one worthy who had quite made up his mind to move from Mayfair to a cheaper quarter, and to cut down his establishment by one-half, who has abandoned those economical intentions.

He is a type of many, no doubt, and the fashionable shopkeeper has some warrant, therefore, for indulging in rosy dreams of thumping profits.

There ought to be considerable saving in bread at home compared with buying bread from the baker. He has to add to the cost price his own profit, the outlay on labour and fuel, distribution charges, rent and taxes, of which can be saved by the householder who possesses an oven. It is generally heated, more or less, all day by the kitchen fire, while in families where there are daughters, bread-making would be an interesting occupation for the idle time. A lady tells me that she lately tried the experiment in a small way, but with a very special result, being a excessive, the cost worked out at nearly a penny half-penny per pound for bread of much superior quality to what she had been paying 20 per cent. more

THE THEATRES.

COURT.

Mrs. Ponderbury, late of the Avenue Theatre, has not only removed her residence to the Court playhouse in Sloane-square, but changed her personality into the bargain: for the character of the heroine of the knife lately impersonated by Miss Alma Stanley, is now filled with obvious advantage to the cast by Mrs. John Wood. It need scarcely be said that the ludicrous deception by means of which the pretended dragon of virtue terrifies his husband into a corresponding false assumption of marital morality serves as an excellent vehicle for the full expression of its eminent representative's broad, pungent and abounding humour. Miss Lottie Venne is again seen at her very best in her vividly rays portrayal of the perfect lady of the music halls; and Mr. Charles Hawtrey's embodiment of the plausibly meek henchman suffered no abatement, by change of venue, of its sly subtle fun. The small part of the gay Lothario who, by retelling on his return after years of absence the true story of the knife discloses Mrs. Ponderbury's hypocritical pretension to exalted virtue, was raised into importance by the breezy acting and sympathetic personality of Mr. Brandon Thomas. Mr. William Hawtrey incited the audience to merriment and applause by his quietly comic delineation of the grumpy old butler, and Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. W. Wyes, Miss V. Lyster, and Miss Florence Haydon in secondary parts added to the general completeness serving to give artistic illusion to this laughter-compelling farce. It must, however, be said that the action beginning too late for the play in the first act causes it to end too late for the audience in the last. Mr. Chudleigh may be advised to start the story at once with the husband's narrative of the knife tradition, prior to which we get no forrader; all that's said, nothing being done, is superfluous. By this excision nearly half an hour would be saved, enabling the audience to leave the theatre by 11 o'clock. It was half-past eleven before the curtain fell on Thursday. The farce, which was greeted with acclamation, giving good augury for its renewed vitality, was preceded by Mr. Brandon Thomas's pretty little play, "A Highland Legacy," in which the author repeated his pathetically characteristic impersonation of the kindly old Scotch laird.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

The Haymarket being closed on Ash Wednesday, Mr. Tree spent his night off by journeying to Manchester, there to see the local revival of Shakspeare's second part of "King Henry IV."—So attractive is the Drury Lane pantomime that Sir A. Harris is now meeting the popular demand for seats by playing the entertainment both morning and evening six days a week.—It is rumoured that whenever a change in the bill is required at the Shaftesbury a musical comedy will be produced, a part in which has been offered to Mr. Dan Leno.—"Rosemary" is the title of the new play by Messrs. L. N. Parker and Murray Carson to follow "The Squire of Dames" at the Criterion.—It is said that Mr. Parker is writing a play for Mrs. Patrick Campbell.—As rumoured, Mr. Cyril Maude will initiate his management of the Garrick in the autumn with a comedy by Mr. Frankfort Moore, entitled "Phyllis."—The Geisha: A Story of a Tea House" is the title of the Japanese musical comedy by Mr. Owen Hall to follow "An Artist's Model" at Daly's Theatre the week after Easter.—Mr. Bourchier proposes to close the Royalty for one Monday night in order that he may fulfil his purpose of giving a performance of "The Chili Widow" in Paris. At the end of the season, after taking this entertaining comedy on a tour through the English provinces, Mr. Bourchier intends to proceed with it to America.—Miss Kate Phillips is engaged to play in the new musical drama "True Blue," opening at the Olympic on March 12.—"The Fly Goddess," is the title given by Mr. Cecil Raleigh to the piece he is writing for Mrs. John Wood to be brought out eventually at the Court.—For the benefit of that clever actor, Mr. Stewart Dawson, long past incapacitated by serious illness from the exercise of his profession, Mr. Penley has given the use of the Globe Theatre for March 3, and the programme will comprise more than a dozen items, enlisting the talents of a very large number of popular performers, including Mr. Beebom Tree, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Kate Phillips, Mr. George Giddens, Mr. Harry Nichols, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Florence West, Mr. C. H. Brookfield, Master Stewart Dawson, Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. Charles Coghlan, Mr. Herbert Campbell, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Dan Leno, and Miss Vane Featherstone.—The Princess's Theatre is shortly to be offered for sale by auction. The present generation of playgoers may not be aware that the premises with a columnar porch nearly facing the Princess's, now used as a Gilber wine store, were originally built as a theatre called the Pantheon, at the doors of which, according to tradition, King George III. used to pay the price for a private box when he visited this playhouse with Queen Charlotte and their children. The theatre afterwards was turned into a bazaar prior to its being taken over by the well-known firm of wine merchants.—When the term of Mr. Weddon Grossmith's tenancy of the Vaudeville expires at Easter, and the theatre reverts to the Messrs. Gatti, Mr. George Edwards will be associated with them in the production of the French musical play, "L'Hotel Libre d'Exchange," lately attracting large audiences in America under the title, "The Gay Parisienne."—The success of "The Prison of Zenda," at the St. James's, has resulted in Mr. George Alexander commissioning its author, Mr. Anthony Hope, to dramatise another novel of his, "The God in the Car," to be called in its stage version "The Price of Empire."—The secret of the identity of the leading actor-manager, for whom the new theatre to stand on part of the ground lately secured by Her Majesty's Opera House, was revealed late on Thursday night, when a board was attached to the hoarding with the simple statement, "Site of Mr. Tree's new theatre."—Miss Kate Vaughan is sadly broken in health. An afternoon performance is being organised for her benefit.—It seems the play by Mr. Barrie, originally designed for Mr. Willard, is after all not the one to be produced by Miss Winifred Emery and Mr. Cyril Maude at the Garrick. For these accomplished players when they enter upon management the author of "The Professor's Love Story" is writing an entirely different piece.—Delenda Carthago, Toole's Theatre, is doomed to demolition; the Board of Management of Charing Cross Hospital, to whom the property belongs, having advised the governors to pull down the playhouse and utilise the area to increase the hospital accommodation.—Last night (Saturday) the 100th performance of "Cinderella," the Drury Lane pantomime was given, it having been played twice every weekday and since its production on Boxing Day. This establishes a record.—Miss Decima Moore was married on Thursday to Mr. C. H. Walker-Leigh, late of the Gordon Highlanders.

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK.

Further proof of the increasing activity in the musical world is afforded by the fact that this year performances of sacred music on the first day in Lent have been more numerous than on any previous Ash Wednesday. The two chief

events were those with which the Queen's Hall Choral Society and the Royal Choral Society were concerned. The former gave performances of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" in the afternoon, and this must have accounted for some falling off in the strength of the male voices, as the members of a military choir are not always able to leave business for a pleasurable duty. The soprano parts were reinforced by boys from the London Training School for Choristers, and, on the whole, the choruses in both works were rendered with that intelligent regard to the intentions of the composer and faithful observance of the demands of the conductor which has already called forth such unstinted praise. These remarks apply particularly to the "Lodgings," the solos in which were taken by Miss Esty, Madame Belle Cole, and Mr. Ben Davies, the last named being in splendid voice. Mr. Randevu conducted at Queen's Hall, Sir A. Mackenzie wielding the baton at the Albert Hall in the evening when Gounod's "Redemp- tion" was given according to a custom established by the late lamented conductor, Sir Charles Hallé, as a tribute of respect to whose memory Sullivan's "In Memoriam" overture was played while the whole audience remained standing. The choir did their part of the work quite up to their best form, and the soloists were Miss Palliser, Miss Howe, Madame Cole, and Messrs. Chandos, Charles Copland, and Bispham.—Mr. Harold Fowles, one of the most talented of our young pianists, gave a concert in the small Queen's Hall, assisted by Mrs. Mary Davies as vocalist and Miss E. Hopkins as violinist. With nothing of the sensational in his style of playing, Mr. Fowles who combines a sympathetic and with neatness and execution well heard at his best, we think, in Hallé's attention, "Modern Suite." He also played Schumann's "Nouvellette" in D and Tchaikowsky's "Berceuse" in A flat with considerable effect, and was joined by Mr. Ernest Fowles in a splendid rendering of Saint-Saëns Variations for two pianofortes upon a theme by Beethoven, and by Mr. Hopkins in Schumann's Concerto in A minor for pianoforte and violin. Mrs. Mary Davies sang songs by Brahms and Imboden in her refined style, and altogether the programme was a peculiarly enjoyable one.—At the second concert of the 13th season of the Stock Exchange Orchestral and Choral Society the programme included a most effective and stirring overture by Mr. W. Macfie, "Othello," a Schubert symphony, and Schumann's Concerto for pianoforte and orchestra in which Miss Torrens-Johnson was heard, Mr. G. Kitchen, of course, conducting.—Mr. Leonard Borwick played in Saint-Saëns' G minor Concerto last Sunday afternoon at Queen's Hall, and Miss Hilda Wilson was the vocalist; while at the Albert Hall the Royal Artillery String Band rendered an attractive programme, including the march from Verdi's "Aida" and the overture to Rossini's "William Tell."

SCENE AT THE DOGS' HOME.

A remarkable scene was witnessed at Dogs' Home, Battersea, on Tuesday. Unhoused dogs that had been arrested by the constables in the various parts of London were brought in batches ranging from 10 to 30. The animals, it appears, are kept at the police stations one night, and if not claimed before 10 a.m. the next morning are sent to the Dogs' Home at Battersea, where they are kept for 5 days before being destroyed or otherwise disposed of." Before noon on Tuesday over 400 dogs had been received at the home from the various police stations. At one time over a score of P.C.'s were waiting at the entrance yard with their canine "charges."

RAILWAY OFFICER'S JUBILEE. Mr. G. Abbott, the district superintendent of the S.E. Railway at Charing-cross and Cannon-st, entered on his 50th year of service this month. During this long period Mr. Abbott has filled every grade in the coaching department. When the Great St. terminus was opened in September, 1866, he was appointed stationmaster, and he has ever since occupied that position. In February, 1890, the charge of Charing-cross terminus was also added to his duties. Mr. Abbott, although well on in years, has no present intention of retiring from the office he has so honourably filled.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS.

21000 DAMAGES AWARDED.

In the Queen's Bench this week the Lord Chief Justice had before him the case of the South Staffordshire Tramways Co. v. Ebbesmith and Wain. It was an action for damages against the defendants—Mr. Ebbesmith, formerly solicitor of the company, and Mr. Cartwrights Wain, formerly a chairman and director—alleging that, in a fiduciary position, they betrayed the trust imposed upon them in connection with the sale to a company of certain land and patents, and had made secret profit and "packed" meetings to carry out their designs.—The jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs on all the issues.—Judgment was entered for the plaintiffs against both defendants, the damages awarded amounting to upwards of £12,000.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

At the L.C.C. this week a park constable was called in and presented with an embazoned copy of a resolution of the council recognising the bravery displayed by him in rescuing a man from a burning building. The chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee, prompted to consider a suggestion that the council's silver medal should be presented to the 2 policemen who distinguished themselves at the Soho fire.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

The board this week considered a proposal to send a deputation to the Committee of Council with a memorandum asking that the school right should be given to the Board of Education on the authority to be created for dealing with secondary education. A motion of the previous question was negatived by 29 votes to 14, and the debate was adjourned by 36 votes to 5.

DISHONEST CLERK.

At the County of London Sessions, Richard Goodale, 26, clerk, pleaded not guilty to indictments which charged him with embezzeling, on several dates in March and June, 1893, sums of money aggregating to nearly £4,000, from his masters, Messrs. Rogers, Chapman, and Co., also with falsifying and omitting certain material particulars and making false entries in a certain cash book belonging to his masters.—Prosecutors are estate agents, etc., carrying on a branch establishment at Westgate-street, Earl's Court, prisoner having been employed by them for 13 years up to the time of his dismissal in 1894.—Several witnesses were called, who stated that they had paid prisoner several sums of money, £10 and £20 at a time, which prisoner had appropriated for himself, and had made false entries in the books. After the case for the prosecution had closed, prisoner desired to withdraw his plea of not guilty, and pleaded guilty.—Chief-constable Challinor of Newark, proved a conviction of 6 months against prisoner, the crime having been committed since he absented himself from London after robbing his employers.—21 months' hard labour.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER AND THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

The chief law officer of the Crown has of late been a very frequent visitor at the Colonial Office, where a room has been fitted up for Sir Richard Webster and the officials with whom he has been engaged. It is understood that the Transvaal raid and the questions affecting British Guiana and Venezuela have been the main business necessitating the Attorney-general's attendance at the Colonial Office.

Eads' Gout—Gout—Rheumatism.
Eads' Gout—Pills—Gout—Rheumatic Gout.
Eads' Gout—Pills—Gout—Pains in Head.
Eads' Gout—Pills—Gout—Pains in Limbs.
Eads' Gout—Pills—Gout—Rapid Cure.
Eads' Gout—Pills—Gout—Sore Remedy.

Mr. A. Mountain, 15, Burien-crescent, Dursbury-road, Leeds, writes:—Your Pills are most excellent. I would like to have them in bottles, and a box of 2d.—(Adv.)

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HALLS AND PALACES.

A most dramatic and effective monologue is that which Mr. Vernon Dowsett is now producing at the Tivoli. It is in 3 scenes, and in the person of Mr. Dennis J. McCarthy, Napoleon is represented as a prisoner and the centre of a well-conceived group on the Beloperone, during his lonely room in St. Helena, where he dreams of his wives and in vision sees the final battle-field of Waterloo, and lastly he is depicted watching the daybreak as he stands on the cliffs of his island prison. Thinking of "la belle France" he fancies he hears the martial strains of the "Marseillaise" wafted across the Atlantic and the old fire burns within him again, but as the melody dies away so the reality of his solitary exile returns to the proud soldier. Looking almost as good a Napoleon as did Mr. Murray Carson in "The Royal Divorce," Mr. McCarthy acts in convincing fashion and sings well, particularly the pathetic lines, "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Ave la croix." The first production of the first production of a performer, described as an "extra-tuna," gives the finest imitation of bird-watching we have ever heard.—As an addition to the attractions at the Grand, Clapham Junction, the famous E. W. Mackney is now appearing under a special engagement. Harry Freeman, Marie Le Blanc, Dorothy Alexander, and the Three Delevantias are included in the programme.—At the Washington, Battersea, too, some good things are offered by Mr. Will Sergeant. The list of artists is headed by Gus E. E. Hopkins as violinist. With nothing of the sensational in his style of playing, Mr. Fowles who combines a sympathetic and with neatness and execution well heard at his best, we think, in Hallé's attention, "Modern Suite." He also played Schumann's "Nouvellette" in D and Tchaikowsky's "Berceuse" in A flat with considerable effect, and was joined by Mr. Ernest Fowles in a splendid rendering of Saint-Saëns Variations for two pianofortes upon a theme by Beethoven, and by Mr. Hopkins in Schumann's Concerto in A minor for pianoforte and violin. Mrs. Mary Davies sang songs by Brahms and Imboden in her refined style, and altogether the programme was a peculiarly enjoyable one.—At the second concert of the 13th season of the Stock Exchange Orchestral and Choral Society the programme included a most effective and stirring overture by Mr. W. Macfie, "Othello," a Schubert symphony, and Schumann's Concerto for pianoforte and orchestra in which Miss Torrens-Johnson was heard, Mr. G. Kitchen, of course, conducting.—Mr. Leonard Borwick played in Saint-Saëns' G minor Concerto last Sunday afternoon at Queen's Hall, and Miss Hilda Wilson was the vocalist; while at the Albert Hall the Royal Artillery String Band rendered an attractive programme, including the march from Verdi's "Aida" and the overture to Rossini's "William Tell."

TERRIBLE FIRE IN LONDON.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

HARROWING SCENES.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

One of the most disastrous fires, unfortunately attended by great loss of life, that has happened in the metropolis for a long time past occurred early on Sunday morning in Soho. The scene of the outbreak was 7, Church-st., Fritchett, immediately behind the Palace Theatre of Varieties, and the fire was first noticed shortly before 3, when very few people even for that neighbourhood were about. The policeman on duty at that hour saw an unusual light in the upper rooms of the house, and at once proceeded to knock at

one leg." Waite, who is regarded by his brother officers as a remarkably strong and agile member of the force, took the crippler on his back, and, in the language of one of the residents of the house, "flew down the burning staircase with him as he was only carrying a baby." afterwards returning for his crutches. In the street by this time a great crowd had gathered, and as the constables made their appearance they were heartily cheered. Isaacson

was so badly injured that Dr. Kemp, the divisional surgeon, who was at the scene of the fire, immediately ordered him to be placed on the sick list.

Waite has also received a number of burns, but his condition is not regarded as being so serious as that of Isaacson. The conduct of both officers has been reported to the Police Commissioners.

THE INQUEST: SADURNING STORIES: PATHETIC SCENES.

On Thursday Coroner Troubeck opened the inquest at St. Anne's Vestry Hall on the bodies of the nine victims, named as follows:—George Futzcher, aged 51, a tailor; Mary Futzcher, 50, his wife, and their 2 children, aged 16 and 11; James Moore, 29, employed at Covent Garden Market; Mary Moore, 28, his wife, and their 3 children, aged 6, 3, and 2 years respectively. Through-out the district the inquiry created a painful feeling, and a large and sympathetic crowd assembled in front of the Vestry Hall and remained for hours in the street. Inside the court some pathetic scenes were witnessed, and the jury were evidently strongly moved by the distressing appearance of the bodies, which lay in the neighbouring mortuary.

Capt. Simonds and Supt. Pearce were present on behalf of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and Supt. Smith represented the police. The first witness was Walter Futzcher, the only survivor of the ill-fated family which occupied the top floor. He identified 4 members of his family, the 5th being too badly burned for actual recognition.

Then a weary-eyed woman named Helen Moore, apparently a flower-seller, identified the 5 victims of her family, the complete household of her brother James Moore. The boy Futzcher was then recalled to tell his story. He woke up in the night, smelt smoke, and told his father the house was on fire. "All right, my lad," his father said.

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WHICH REQUIRES NO ADDITION OF YEAST OR OTHER RAISING AGENT.

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The peculiar advantage is that the process of raising is greatly assisted, and the flour is more easily digested.

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BROWN & POLSON,

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VENUS SOAP.

TALK OF THE PEOPLE.

a few equally dull and unimportant suggestions, quite unworthy of prominent place in a debate on the Address. Of any positive policy of constructive legislation, points in which might have been indicated by amendments to the Address, there was no sign. In short, the Opposition were in the position of a pugilist who, having received a tremendous knock-out in the previous round, is unable to come up to time. They have not, after the full half-year that has elapsed, recovered from the desperate despondency into which they were thrown by their rout at the general election. And so, when Parliament meets, we find them dumb and apathetic, incapable, not only of formulating a policy of their own, but even of playing the constitutional part of every Parliamentary Opposition by criticising that of the Government. This is a state of things for which it is impossible to find a perfect precedent in the Parliamentary history of the present reign.

COMEDY THEATRE
LAST NIGHT.

Not only a change of bill but a change of company was seen last night with the production at Mr. Comyns Carr's theatre of the play entitled "Gossip," by the American playwrights, Messrs. Fitch and Dietrichstein, originally brought out at the Grand Theatre, at Leipzig, over a year since, when a full notice of the piece appeared in our columns. Of the first cast, Mrs. Langtry alone sustains the character primarily played by her, that of a kind-hearted, rather feather-brained American lady, who, having upon questions of temper and caprice shed her first husband with the peculiar facility common to the divorce courts of her country, utilises her personal experience to save her friend, Mrs. Stanford from a like fate, but with this difference that the man she separated would be caused by a breach of the Seventh Commandment, which is happily averted by the opportune friendly intervention of the divorcee. Briefly to recapitulate the plot, it is the old story of the marriage of May and December over again. The young wife—Mrs. Stanford's friend—honours and respects; in fact, does everything but love her elderly husband; simply because her affection was already bestowed when she married. Unhappily the object of her former heart's desire reappears by a strange coincidence in the person of her husband's long absent friend; and his presence serving to revive in the lady's heart the embers of her early passion, he with a treacherous to his host proving his utter unworthiness of such love takes mean advantage of her weakness by tempting her to go away with him. Prompted by a supreme effort of her better nature, she rejects the seductive lure and dismisses her old lover. But her husband's jealousy incited by the clandestine interview between the former lovers, leads him to the expression of such defamatory terms to his wife, as move her under a retaliatory impulse of passionate indignation to address a letter to her husband assenting to elope with him. Scarcely is the dishonouring missile posted before it is reported to the death-restrained lady, who with the instinct of a true woman, sets to work to retrieve at all hazards the damaging epistle. The scene that follows, though strongly reminiscent of the hunt for the analogous compromising note in "Les Pâtes de Mouche," anglicised "Scrap of Paper," ring the changes on Sardou's clever paper chase with sufficient freshness to prevent the interest from flagging. On the contrary, it culminates in the recovery after various vicissitudes of the fatal note unopened. There the interest virtually ends, the concluding act, which is an autoclimax serving simply to tie up the threads of the story rather tediously by the reconciliation of the elderly husband and her youthful regenerated wife. This character was impersonated with infinite sympathy, charming in its delicate sensitive expression, by Miss Calhoun. As a contrast was seen the friend, whose frivolity of manner backed by a true womanly nature, was expressed by Mrs. Langtry with vivacity which, if the truth may be told, seemed rather artificial, for as such the effect at light-heartedness was apparent. Otherwise the actress feasted the eyes of her own sex by the variety and brilliancy of her costumes worn, of course, with her wonted grace and distinction. Mr. Herbert Standing as the elderly husband, and Mr. Leonard Boyne as his insidious assailant of his friend's honour, played their parts after a style which lacked the high breeding imparted to the two leading female characters required to beget the illusion that they could be the social equals of their wives. Miss Eame Beringer was cruelly cast in the rôle of a vulgar Yankee girl; who was never for a moment quite illusive, simply because the personal grace and delicacy of this winsome young actress piercing through the assumption neutralised its vulgarity. The reverse of the proverb holds good "You can't make a sow's ear out of a silk purse." The performance was watched with attention and greeted with favour up to its climax at recovery of the letter; after which the interest dropped. The last act is superfluous. All occurring in it should be said and done shortly and sharply direct to the climax is reached.

FIRES IN LONDON YESTERDAY. A spark from a fire caused an outbreak at 57, Mount Pleasant, Clerkenwell, occupied by Mr. W. Plessent, corksutter. The first floor and contents of the building, which was used as a workshop and store, were severely damaged by fire. A fire broke out at 24, Snowfields-st., Bermondsey, a dwelling-house occupied by E. Hurley and others. The roof was burnt off and the house and contents damaged by fire and water. A fire led to a fire at 39, West India Dock-rd., in the occupation of F. D. Gibb, builder and contractor. A workshop was damaged and the fire was extinguished. An extensive fire occurred on premises in the occupation of Mr. McCormack at Arlington-st., New North-nd. The place is known as the "Arlington-st. Works" and is owned by Mr. J. Rolfe, of 25, Arlington-st. The building, which consisted of 2 floors, 110 ft. by 25 ft., was used as a machine room and stores. Several steamers were soon on the scene, but the building and contents were severely damaged.

DR. JAMESON'S HOMECOMING.
EXTRAORDINARY PREPARATIONS.

Preparatory orders were issued last night for the whole staff along the Great Western system between Plymouth and Paddington to hold themselves in readiness for special duty to-day. Two Scotland Yard officials left Paddington at 9 o'clock last night for Plymouth.

Sir Algernon Lyons, Commander-in-Chief of the Flying Squadron, in reply to questions respecting the arrival of the Victor, stated that the Government had put off the occasion in order to go alongside the transport ship in Plymouth Sound, as she was expected to come up in the course of the night. The tug would carry simply the officer entrusted with the superintendence of the disembarkation of the troops and a post-office official, and no one else would be allowed aboard. Other tugs would follow, but, in opinion of the admiral, none of these boats would be used for the landing of Dr. Jameson and his fellow prisoners. He would not be surprised if the Administrator was taken on at some less populous centre than Plymouth.

Of late, Ida Case, who resides at Woodstock-st., Oxford-st., has been troubled with bad dreams. They played upon her mind to such an extent that yesterday she attempted suicide. P. C. Ward arrived on the scene just in time to prevent her doing any serious injury to herself. He conducted her to Marlborough-st. station, where the magistrate thought Ida's head had better be examined.

LATEST
ELECTRIC FLASHES.

HOME. A man fell off the turret at the end of the Admiralty Pier, yesterday, and was drowned. A soldier who attempted to rescue him was nearly drowned in so doing.

Addressing a meeting at Chatham yesterday, Mr. Ald. Davie, M.P., incidentally mentioned that the Rochester election petition

should be properly discussed, and to do away with the scandal of fighting for hours over an extra sixpence for some unfortunate official one day and voting five or six millions without discussion in as many minutes the next. Of course the bosses don't like them, but nobody expected they would; and besides, their dialect is a strong recommendation.

I have very little doubt myself, that the new rules will have to be followed by some modification of the ridiculous system which allows any man to speak as often as he pleases, or as long as his lungs will hold out, in Committees of Supply. Even with the greatest care on the part of the Government to put down those more important Estimates for the earliest consideration, it will be difficult to prevent unimportant discussions being raised on them, and prolonged out of all reason, as they are now. One of the most acute "divine" members that I know expressed his belief to me the other day that the only way of dealing with the matter was to restrict a man in committee to 1 amendment to any clause, and to 1 speech on any clause or amendment.

Mr. Dillon made his first public appearance in Parliament as leader of the Anti-Parnellites on Friday night. The election through which he has passed has not endowed him with those qualities of moderation, consciousness of expression, or exactness of thought in which he was formerly so conspicuously deficient. I don't know why it should, but his new followers seemed to expect that he would show signs of having received special grace and were proportionately disappointed. Mr. Healy has every reason to be delighted with the choice that his opponents have made, for nothing in the world could have done more to play his game than this placing of his rival in a position when his incompetence will be so speedily discovered.

Sir Matthew White Ridley is an admirable Secretary in every way but one. He is apparently unable to moderate his voice to suit the House of Commons, which is not a particularly difficult building to speak in. It is not that he speaks too low to be heard, but that he shouts, as some men do, but that, seemingly, he cannot pitch his voice to the tones which the building requires, and his replies to questions have, in consequence, a queer, explosive effect, which detracts from the excellence of their matter. It is a small thing, but small things often make a great deal of difference in the House of Commons. I have known a man's political career blasted by his neck-tie, and it is worth Sir Matthew's attention.

One of the odd things—there always is an odd thing, no matter how terrible circumstances may be—in connection with the Johannesburg expedition is that there is not enough glass in all South Africa to repair the broken windows. Another is that the accident should have taken place at such an extremely convenient time. It gives the

Thomas Cole was remanded at Bristol yesterday on charges of obtaining money by false pretences from Andrew Nelson, and also with forging and uttering an order for the payment of money. It was alleged that he had been sent on soliciting orders on commission, and sending in bogus orders.

The a.s. Bull of Middlesbrough, yesterday, through some misapprehension of the officials, who drownded himself in the churchyard well at Lowfield Heath, near Redgate, took place yesterday. A party of mourners returning to Crawley Station were thrown out of their trap. One woman had her arm broken in 2 places.

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THE MUSWELL HILL MURDER.

INQUEST AND FUNERAL.

An inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Mr. Smith, at Muswell Lodge, was held on Tuesday by Coroner Danford at Hornsey. Mrs. Bland, niece of the deceased, stated that he had been an engineer, but lived retired, and he was in his 80th year. Generally speaking, he lived a retired life, and had no servants in the house. She last saw him alive on Jan. 29, when he visited her mother. About a year ago he told her mother that he had a sum of £2000.

EWAN HURMAN POURNE IN HIS BEDROOM.—Since his visit he had written a letter to his sister, which witness handed to the coroner, and which was partly read by him. This was dated Feb. 24, 1895, and was as follows:—

"Dear Fanny.—As my exit here must occur shortly, I wish you to know that I have not made any will. You will take all I have."

"In my iron safe, in the bed-room, I have nearly £7000. The only thing I require is some tea-leaf. . . . jelly is not useful."—HENRY SMITH.

Witness said deceased had also a few silver things—very little of that—but she thought he had a silver tea service. She heard of his death on the 14th.—Charles John Webber, gardener to deceased, said he had lived in Muswell Hill for 12 years. He was married and had a family. For 10 years he had been wholly employed by Mr. Smith. He was a widower, his wife having died in 1871. Witness then described how he discovered his employer lying dead in the kitchen at 6.30 a.m. on the 14th, and the generally disordered condition of deceased's bedroom. Mr. Joseph Stanbrook, a florist and nurseryman, who lived opposite Muswell Lodge, spoke to knowing the deceased from before the time when he began to live in the neighbourhood. Sometimes witness sat with the deceased. The last time he saw Mr. Smith was about 2 months ago. On the 14th he was told, while he was dressing that Webber wanted him, as he could not rouse Mr. Smith. Witness went across and saw Webber at the gate, and with him walked to the kitchen window, and looked through. He could see a body on the ground, and that the hands of the man were bound, but he could not see the face of the man. Then he went away, and sent his boy to fetch the police; and, as the constable did not arrive quickly, he went for one himself. When the major and the constable came he saw the face uncovered, and then recognised that it was the deceased. The

HANDS WERE TIED WITH PIECES OF A TABLECLOTH.

Witness did not go into the bed-room. At 10.30 on the Thursday night he went out of his gate into the roadway and saw a man, respectably dressed, standing still in the middle of the road, near the front gate of Muswell Lodge. He thought it strange to see a man like that, and he noticed that the man turned and went round the corner into Page's-lane. He followed, to see what the man had done, but could not see anything of him; he had disappeared. The man was wearing a hard felt hat and dark clothes; and, in his opinion, the man was about 40 years of age. He could not see the man's face.—By Mr. Mote: He could not see the man's face, because it was half turned away from him; and it was very dark at the time.

Maj. Challen, late of the Volunteers, residing at Elm Lodge, Tetherdown-lane, deposed that he was called at 7.30 by Webber, on the morning of the 14th. He had not seen the deceased for a long time prior to that date. Dressing immediately, he went to Webber and Stanbrook, and, looking through the window of the kitchen, saw the body of the deceased. The door was not locked, and he opened it and went into the kitchen, followed by the 2 men. The deceased was lying with his head towards the door. His legs were tied, the knees tied, and he was tied with exceptional tightness round the hands, which were also bound to his side. He was

ONLY WEARING A NIGHTSHIRT.

The lower extremities were cold, and the chest was warm. His head was enveloped in cloths and tied with string. When that was removed, the mouth was found stuffed with a duster; and there were a considerable number of wounds about his head. He noticed 4 at the back of the skull; behind the ear was a clear cut wound half an inch in diameter. There were 3 other wounds over the left temporal artery; these were punctured wounds, which might have been caused by blows from any blunt instrument. He paid particular attention to the wounds because the shape was so singular. When they found the body of the deceased, he despatched a young friend who was visiting him to the Southgate Police Station for the inspector. While the examination was going on a constable arrived. He came to the conclusion.—The Coroner: We want to know what you did.—Witness: I did what I thought was necessary. While the constable was there, witness searched the lower premises, and found everything was right. Then they went up into the bed-room of deceased. At that time a second constable was present.

EDWARD HOPKINS IN A GREATLY CONFUSED STATE.

At Lambeth, Richard Boulter, of Verney-rod, Rotherhithe, was summoned before Mr. Hopkins by the Camberwell Vestry for having at a stall belonging to him in Peckham Park-rod, exposed a quantity of unsound meat for sale.—Edward Homer, sanitary inspector in the service of the vestry, stated that on the 12th inst. he examined the meat exposed on a stall in Peckham Park-rod, and found 10 pieces of beef, 16 pieces of mutton and the major portion of a sheep, all in an unsound condition. The man in charge of the stall said he was going to "face" the meat up. The man told him that the defendant was the proprietor of the stall. The meat was not diseased, but was decomposed.—George Gladstone Morley, another sanitary inspector, said the meat was pointed out to him by the last witness, having been exposed very recently.—Cross-examined.—Some of the meat might have been frozen. He had noticed that frozen meat sometimes had a greenish appearance, but was nevertheless quite sound when cut into.—Joseph H. Stevenson, another of the vestry's inspectors, described the meat as being slimy, unsound, and totally unfit for food. It smelt very strongly.—Edmund Webb, the man in charge of the stall, denied that he told the last witness that he was going to "face" the meat.—Mr. Hopkins: Was the meat good?—Witness: Yes.—Was it bad the next morning? No, but one piece.—Wm. Brassington, a tradesman in the neighbourhood, declared that the meat on the stall was perfectly sound and fit for food. He had a joint of the stall himself. It was wind-dried, but he liked a joint that had been hanging a few days himself.—Mr. Mote: You like a nice big joint.—Witness: No, I do not. I don't like game high.—Harry W. Smith, a veterinary surgeon, said he examined the meat on the stall, following its seizure. It was not nice meat to look at, but upon cutting into the pieces the witness found them all fit for food, with one exception.—A butcher named Hurlestone gave similar evidence.—Mr. Hopkins remarked that in this case he was placed in a position of some difficulty, as he was in a position to cause some difficulty.

ON SOUND MEAT.

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ON THE BASE OF THE SKULL.

The Coroner: Stay; all this is supposition; better mention these theories to the police; we want the facts to-day. Did you see any particular instrument that would cause the wounds?—Witness: No.—The Coroner: Was it his habit to come down in the early morning to light the fire, wearing only his night-shirt?—Insp. Marshall: No, sir.—The Coroner: Did you notice the kitchen window?—Witness: I saw the jemmy marks on the window, as if it had been pried open.—By Mr. Mote: Witness found the watch and chain, gold spectacles, 2 finger rings, and his wife's wedding ring; these were in the wood basket, covered over with a piece of paper.—P.C. Goble, 671 Y., gave evidence as to seeing the body in the kitchen.—Insp. Lambert, of the Southgate Division of Police, noticed the windows. He saw that an attempt had been made to raise the drawing-room window, then the pantry window had been tried, after that the kitchen window. The dark lantern he produced was found in the sink.

A BOX OF SILENT MATCHES.

was on the table. There was a small canvas money bag, blood-stained, on the floor by the body. The gold watch was still going when found in the basket. On the table opposite the window was a small drill, and in the inside of the door leading from the

THE PEOPLE'S HEROES—XLII.

Yarmouth has reason to be proud that it contains a hero of the stamp of Frederick Childs, the Southtown ferryman, whose portrait we here give. Childs for many years has had charge of the ferry, and during that time has saved the lives of something like 100 children from drowning. One of his latest deeds of heroism was the rescue of 2 boys who fell into the river near the ferry. The lads were in imminent danger of drowning, when Childs pluckily jumped overboard and brought them both to the shore. The case was brought before the notice of the Royal Humane Society, and Childs was last week presented with a certificate and a purse of gold. It falls to the lot of but few people to save 100 lives, and it is with great pleasure that we add the name of Frederick Childs to the long and honoured list of the "People's" Heroes.

LORD LEIGHTON'S SUCCESSOR.

The appointment of Sir John Millais this week to be President of the Royal Academy is in accordance with general expectation. Sir John now becomes 8th President, his predecessors having been

Lord Leighton.

Sir F. Grant, Sir C. Eastlake, Sir M. Shae, Sir T. Lawrence, B. West, and Sir J. Reynolds.

From the year when he exhibited the "Black Brunswicker,"

more than a quarter of a century ago, to the present time, no contributions to the Academy have gained wider popularity than those of

SIR J. MILLAIS.

He was born at

Southampton in 1829, his father being a native of Jersey, and an officer of Militia there.

At the age of 6 he was taken to Dinan, in Brittany, where his sketches attracted attention.

In 1837 his family returned to Jersey, and John Millais came to London to devote himself to an artistic career.

At the Academy Schools he carried off every honour they had to bestow, and at 17 painted pictures which were exhibited and attracted attention.

FAITHLESS SEPTIMUS.

At Newcastle Assizes, on Friday, an action for breach of promise was brought by Miss Margaret Kirkland, telegraph clerk, against Septimus Park, painter and paper-hanger, of North Shields.—The parties kept company from 1890 to 1893. During that period defendant sent several hundred love letters to plaintiff.—Defendant, it is alleged, came across another lady, and his feelings accordingly changed, and, refusing to marry plaintiff, the present action was instituted.—The jury returned a verdict for plaintiff, and £250 damages were given.

NOT FAR FROM PROFESSIONALS.

All facts bearing upon the police investigations were purposely withheld from the coroner's jury, who were only asked to return a formal verdict. It is believed that if an arrest is made it will be of a sensational character. Facts which came to light tend to show that the crime was not the act of professional burglars. There seems very little doubt that the murderers not only knew but were known by their victim. The successful manner in which they evaded the alarm wires, and the fact that, having gained admission to the house, they proceeded direct to the very spot where the money was kept—for there is no evidence that they entered any apartment except the bed-room and the kitchen—show that they were well acquainted with the interior of the premises and the habits of the unfortunate gentleman.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

The sweet singer, Madame Patti, is 53. Mary Burton, of Grimbury, has died at the age of 103.

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Our import of fresh mutton for last week amounted to no less than 88,666 cwt.

The Duke of Connaught will represent the Queen at the coronation of the Czar.

It is intended to hold the usual Parliamentarian golf handicap this season.

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